THE PULSE

News of the
New England Deaconess Hospital Employees

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MISS FLORENCE R. BROWN

Last March, Miss Florence R. Brown, became head of the Department of Surgery. She had been Supervisor of the operating rooms since February, 1946. It was at the suggestion of Miss Georgie Bolter, Administrator, and Miss Ardis Raupauch, Operating Room Supervisor, of the New England Baptist Hospital that we are fortunate enough to have Miss Brown at the Deaconess Hospital — for they urged her to apply to us when we were seeking an Operating Room Supervisor.

Miss Brown comes from West Kingston, Rhode Island — the heart of historic South County — where her home has always been. She trained at the Homeopathic Hospital, now the Roger Williams General, in Providence. She has done postgraduate work at Brown University and took public health training with the Providence District Nurse Association. After she was graduated from the Homeopathic Hospital, Miss Brown joined the staff as Assistant Head Nurse and had both delivery room and nursery experience. She was employed there five years and was Assistant Operating Room Supervisor at the time she left to come to Boston to join the staff at the New England Baptist Hospital.

In February 1942, Miss Brown was among the first Army nurses to leave this country after Pearl Harbor. She was the first echelon from Harvard University. She had no easy time reaching the European Theatre because through sabotage her unit was broken up. Miss Brown was one of about twenty nurses assigned to different ships than the main unit. This small group reached the British Isles as scheduled, but two months in advance of their unit, which had to turn back.

Miss Brown landed in Ireland with only the clothes she had on her back and the little she carried in her small musette bag, since all her belongings had been with the main unit. Because of rationing, it was impossible to purchase more clothes. Miss Brown lived with the British on their rations and worked under the British matron and with the British sisters, all veterans of Dunkirk service, in the hospital to which she was assigned. It was rugged to go from comfortable America to the austere British Isles. Because the change was so sudden, these twenty nurses almost froze and starved to death in the two months before the main unit arrived. They tried to stay in bed until tea time to keep warm and they gazed in food shop windows just for vicarious pleasure.

When the main unit finally arrived, the Americans took over the hospital and the British signed over all their equipment and left. Miss Brown helped set up in the European Theatre

the first shock ward, which was used as a model for larger ones. She was transferred from the Harvard Unit to the 61st General Hospital, where she was Chief Operating Room Nurse assigned to set up and run the operating rooms and central supply. It was a new hospital with experienced people in key positions who had already been overseas. In addition to setting up and running the hospital, it was necessary to train new personnel. It was a hospital to which casualties were flown within a few hours of injury from the Continent. During big drives the operating rooms handled as many as 75 casualties consecutively. Such service meant round the clock duty until all had received care. Miss Brown served for four years and had forty-two months of continuous foreign service. She was discharged as a first lieutenant and has several letters of commendation.

Miss Brown has the knack of balancing her taxing work with constructive recreation. She reads all she can, is interested in all kinds of outdoor activities, and appreciates good music. Although she does not play any instrument, she enjoys classical music — operas and symphonies — and collects records. She has a deep interest in antiques, which she has acquired through her family. While she was in England, she found an unusual grey Rockingham tea set, a most treasured possession, which she sent home with the first commercial shipment made after the submarine blockade was broken. Recently she has acquired a Haviland Limoges dinner set, which she has been accused of stealing for $20 — since she has been offered that much for the soup tureen alone.

Miss Brown's interest in outdoor sports covers almost every known activity. She went far in the Girl Scouts — likes camping, swimming, sailing, and golf. Last summer during her vacation she joined a windjammer cruise and she really should belong to their public relations staff — she is so enthusiastic about it. She is a good gardener too — she has a green thumb and likes to raise both flowers and vegetables. She takes part in most of the outside interests of her operating room group such as horseback riding and bowling — and she hopes to join their pencil sketching class. She is a bridge shark — so beware! Since she has just moved from one apartment to another, she will gladly give free advice on how to redo an apartment — even to sanding floors. In addition, Miss Brown is a real cook — she throughly enjoys it and entertains her staff frequently.

Miss Brown usually has her hair all tucked up in her O. R. turban and has a mask over her face. It is hoped that in spite of this disguise all may have the privilege of meeting her and knowing her better.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1948

JANUARY

Twenty-four new students welcomed into the Nursing School.

FEBRUARY

Gilchrest-Spriggs & Co. engaged as public relations firm.

Employees' Valentine Dance at the Hotel Sheraton.

MARCH

Long-time employees Ada Hamlyn, Orianna Harding, Howard Lewis, and Ruth Sherman receive awards from the Methodist Board of Hospitals and Homes for 25 years of service.

Arts and Crafts Project of Volunteers begun.

Record Rooms reorganized.

Department of Surgery created.

APRIL

Grant of $400,000 from the Federal Government for Cancer Research.

MAY

Mr. Walter C. Emery takes over Housekeeping responsibilities.

First Cancer Detection Clinic.

JULY

Television rental established.

AUGUST

Beauty Service for patients (and employees) inaugurated.

SEPTEMBER

Course for Hospital Aides begun.

Mrs. Alexander G. Grant made honorary member of American Hospital Association for out-standing service to hospitals.

Mr. Homer S. Hughey takes over chaplain work.

Sanitation Course for food handlers organized.

OCTOBER

Happy Birthday III to THE PULSE!

NOVEMBER

Hospital goes over the top in the Community Fund Drive.

Organizational meeting of the Employees' Mutual Benefit Association held.

Alpha Credit Union declares dividend on investments.

DECEMBER

Red Stocking Campaign.

Employee's Christmas Party held in Whitney Hall.

HOSPITAL DEPARTMENTS
LABORATORY OF PATHOLOGY
No. Nine of a Series

We in Pathology welcome this opportunity to acquaint you all with the work of our department, since we have rather an inferiority complex. Most of you look upon us as a morbid, bloody bunch because the materials we work on are not exactly the most lovely to behold. Yet, when one knows what is being accomplished, even the newest technician soon learns to look upon a "specimen" as beautiful or at least interesting.

In any pathological department all surgical and postmortem material is carefully examined and studied grossly. Then the doctors select representative parts of the whole and these parts are put through a series of detailed processes and are made into microscopic slides by the technicians. These slides, of slices of tissue about 10 times thinner than a hair of your head, are studied under the microscope, discussed by our group of doctors, and diagnosed by the Pathologist. This report is sent to the Record Rooms and to the patient's physician. An enormous amount of exacting and skilled work goes into all of the steps of this procedure and detail of it would only serve to bore those of you who are not familiar with this type of technical work.

You may well ask, "What is the purpose or importance of all this?" Even the most skilled medical or surgical man cannot be absolutely sure that he knows all about a patient's condition by symptoms or by the appearance of the diseased part. Only by studying microscopic slides of the diseased tissues and carefully correlating this information with clinical data can one be sure of the exact nature of the patient's disease. For instance, if you had a wart cut from your finger at NEDH, we have in our files a description of that wart as we received it from the Operating Room, a "microscopic diagnosis," and the slide from which that diagnosis was made. From our work, both you and your doctor have been reassured that this little bump was a "wart" and not some growth of a more serious nature. Had it been, let us say, a cancer, your doctor would then have carefully considered whether or not you needed further treatment to insure that the growth would not return or spread to other parts of your body.

Some of you may shudder at the thoughts of the postmortem examinations which are performed frequently. These reveal to the doctors the adequacy or inadequacy of the treatment the patient had received and also disclose the course of various diseases, so that future patients will benefit from the past. Dr. Elliott P. Joslin could tell you how the diabetic specialists have been able to substantially increase the life-span of the diabetic patient through information which has been garnered from the hundreds of postmortems recorded in our department. Or some surgeon could tell you how

he has changed his operative procedure in the cases of certain types of cancer, better to check the spread of this disease.

The material accumulated from postmortem studies constitutes an essential part of the machine of cancer research. And frequently in this study of diseased tissues, vital problems are confronted which open the road for valuable experimental research.

It seems almost inevitable that the size of the specimen is conversely related to the ease of diagnosis. A minute bit of tissue — frequently only the size of a pinhead — invariably proves to represent the rarest type of disease and the most puzzling to diagnose.

Now, perhaps you can understand the fascination of our work, and the feeling of pride and elation when a difficult diagnosis has been solved. We feel that our work is important enough to you and to each patient of NEDH that we may be pardoned if we do not always smell like a rose or look as clean as the new-fallen snow.

KATHRYN H. HALEY.

AUTOMOBILE DIVISION

Plea: It would be much appreciated if employees who drive cars to work would report their new registration numbers to the Personnel Office and receive a number sticker at the same time. This is important both from our point of view and from yours — that is if you should inadvertently park by an oil delivery spot, we will ask you to move your car, instead of the Boston Police Department informing you that you may pick up same at X garage by paying $10 towing and storage charges.

Warning: For the duration of the winter (such as it is) there will be no parking on the Harris Hall side of Pilgrim Road from Longwood Avenue to Francis Street, and on the Faculty House side of Autumn Street for the entire block. This is to facilitate snow removal when and if.

NEW CHECKS ISSUED

On the first payday of 1949, employees will receive a new-style paycheck. The portion bearing the name of the employee (that is, the short strip) is the actual check. The portion to the right (the long strip) is the detail of net earnings. This should be kept for reference, as it will list the following information: gross earnings! overtime; time out; earnings for the half month; all deductons, such as withholding tax, Blue Cross, Community Fund, and so forth. Best of all, each one will show total earnings from the first of the year to date and the total tax withheld from the first of the year to date. *Be sure to keep these receipts. You will need them for income tax purposes next year.* We hope you will like the new style check.

MORE ABOUT LITTLE RED STOCKINGS

Christmas is over, but the need for contributions to the Building Fund by means of the little Red Stockings goes on. Perhaps you didn't have the spare cash to fill one at Christmas, but if you can occasionally spare a dime, there is no better place for it than the slot in the stocking. Empty stockings may be obtained from the Fund Office on Deaconess I and filled ones turned in at the same place. Look what Mr. Woolworth did with dimes — and all we want is a new building! Your continued support will be most appreciated.

WANT TO EARN $5

Does the missus need a new hat? Do you want to see that new musical from good first balcony seats? Each month an award for a good suggestion is not made, $5 is going to waste at NEDH. The box is still patiently hanging in the entrance to the Cafeteria. Help the hospital — help yourself. *Make a good suggestion!*

SERVICE

Award Winners at Christmas Party

GLAD TO SEE YOU!

We are glad these people joined our clan in December:

Pathology
Harriet Landon

Pharmacy
Frances Cahill
Record Rooms
Flora Eresian

Surgery
Anne Dorion
John Driscoll
Chester Zinewicz

Housekeeping
Edward Garbati
Darinda MacArthur

Maintenance
Murray Wilson
Anna Ingersoll
Helen Jimoulis
Greta Lexander
Virginia White

X-Ray
Evelyn Glycart

Admitting
Barbara Williams
Blood Bank
Ellenmary Bean

Chemistry
Tamara Deluty
Gertrude Rodgik
Barbara Thomas

Dietary
Linwod Dow
Ross Jollimore
Edith Knight
Joseph Lussier
Anna Sebio
Paul Tonra

Nursing
Mildred Buttum
Patricia Gaffney
Jane Kossley
Louise Rouillard
Alice Whitmore

The third class of Hospital Aides was organized on December first, and included the following people who will receive their caps shortly:

Josephine Boucher
Emma Doheny
Edith Hutchinson
Grayce Thayer
Helen Harris
Cecelia Nicholson

MRS. DONALD O. CORNISH

It was with great sadness that the news of the death of Mrs. Betsey Cornish was learned on January fourteenth. During the more than six years of her employment at the hospital she made a host of friends. Everywhere she went she had a cheery hello and friendly smile for everyone. Her gay buoyant spirit will be remembered by all. Her innumerable friends feel a deep personal loss in her passing. It is the desire of everyone to express his deepest sympathy to Mrs. Cornish's two children, Mr. James W. Cornish and Mrs. Ernest M. Chapman and to all the other members of her family.

MR. CLARENCE B. FOWLER

On New Year's Eve, Clarence B. Fowler, was struck by a hit-and-run driver at the corner of Brookline Avenue and Deaconess Road. He died at City Hospital the following day. He had been an employee for over five years and everyone knew him by his faithful dog, who waited patiently outside all day long. Mr. Fowler was a member of the Housekeeping Department and worked in Baker. He was very much interested in music and was a well-educated man. The hospital and his fellow employees extend their sympathy to his relatives.

HOUSEKEEPING

Congratulations to Victoria and Spiros Rallis on the birth of their granddaughter, Cynthia Christina, who was born bright and early Christmas morning.

MAINTENANCE

We welcome Mr. Murray Wilson who replaces John Curtis as plumber — short in stature but long in personality.

Warren Smith is sporting a new Pontiac — some bus!

Granville (Ben) Smith is on sick leave. We hope not for long and that he will be back with us soon.

NURSING

Mrs. Edith Wetterlow, Nursing Office, has been a patient in Palmer. Hope we see her back soon.

Miss Evelyn Kirschbaum, who has long been a patient on Palmer IV, has been discharged. However, she won't be back to work for a while. We hope it isn't too long.

Miss Dorothy Eaton, head nurse on Deaconess III South, is back after a long absence.

Miss Roberta Hackett, Assistant Head Nurse on Palmer III, has left for a trip to Florida — we hope she soaks up some of that sun for us! Miss Lois Thomas of Palmer IV will now assist Miss Janie Christie in Miss Hackett's absence.

Best wishes to Mrs. James Crounse, who was Joanne Jackson of the Joslin staff, on her recent marriage.

Miss Roberta Pye has replaced Mrs. Dorothy Smith as Diabetic Teaching Nurse.

We are all glad to see Mrs. Phyllis Giroux back and feeling better. She is now doing private duty, but was formerly a staff nurse in Deaconess.

The Clinical Instructors gave a Silver Tea for the benefit of the Classroom Fund on January 13 at the home of Mrs. Clarice Andrews, 1060 Beacon Street, Brookline. It is hoped this is just the beginning of other benefits to follow.

As a matter of fact, one more is coming up on January 21 — the Alumnae Dance to be held at the Puritan Hotel. Everyone is invited and everyone who goes will have fun. Tickets may be purchased from Miss Irja Hill, Deaconess IV.

Congratulations to Mrs. Dorothy Ogrean, former Assistant Instructor, and her husband on the birth of a boy, Douglas, on December 5.

PATHOLOGY

Tear up that letter to the Lonely Hearts Club — don't waste the postage — come and work for Pathology! It's the best matrimonial agency in existence. Testimonials: Jean Sunderlin left us before Christmas and is making elaborate preparations for her wedding in February. Wear your sun glasses when you approach Emma Corbo — those are real diamonds she wears on her left hand. And that ethereal air about Nancy Trowbridge and Jean Morrissey is caused by additions to ring finger, left hand. Helene Kimball, who already had her man, has left us to settle down to real domesticity.

We always look forward to our Christmas mail and word from our multitude of former associates. One interesting bit of news was the birth in November of a son to Mr. and Mrs. John Ahearn (Thelma Maxon, formerly of Bacteriology).

PHARMACY AND PURCHASING

Welcome to our newest addition, Miss Frances Cahill, who has taken over the mail order work and finds it very fascinating.

Attention bowlers! Keep your good bowling eye on Mr. Chamberlin. He has developed into an ace lead-off man.

On December 23rd, the department's annual Christmas party was held at Blinstrub's Bohemian Gardens, located in South Boston.

SOCIAL SERVICE

Dr. Langdon Parsons was a most generous and jovial Santa at the annual OPD-Social Service Christmas party, which was attended by many members of the Staff and Clinic personnel.

The Department was able to make Christmas happier for approximately fifty families because of the generosity of the Nursing Department, Boston Junior Red Cross, and many individuals who contributed food, money, and gifts.

Ida Jeanne Tobias spent a week with her family in Toledo, Ohio, over the holidays, while Gladys Harrison welcomed in the New Year in Connecticut.

Priscilla Moldenke won the beautiful floor lamp which was given as a prize at the Christmas on Beacon Hill Fashion Luncheon at the Copley Plaza.

An appreciative note has been received from Mr. E. Stanley Nicholas, Headmaster, the School House, Upper Basildon, Near Reading, Berkshire, England, who thanks hospital personnel for sending canceled stamps to his school and states they can use more.

The Department will miss Miss Lilly Moen, our "extra" nurse, who helps out with the afternoon clinics — she has left us to visit her home in Norway.

Betty Downey, former Social Service secretary, recently wrote a very fine article on diabetes which was published in the Ogdensburg, New York, newspaper.

Mrs. Philip E. Jameson, Director of Social Service and the Out-Patient Department wishes to express her appreciation for the many kindnesses extended by hospital personnel in the recent loss of her husband.

Mrs. Ruth Wells, volunteer in the Library, is enjoying a leave of absence in Florida. We hope to see her again on Wednesday and Thursday mornings in the Spring.

SURGERY

Vacations seem to be popular even around Christmas time. Dorothy Tumblin and two friends spent an enjoyable week taking in the sights in Washington, D. C., and Virginia.

Eloise Schumacher was given a silver service at the Operating Room Christmas party. We all wish her the best of luck in her new job at the Veterans Hospital in Montgomery, Alabama.

STAFF NEWS

A daughter was born to Dr. and Mrs. Carroll C. Miller on January fifth.

From some letters written by Dr. Richard Betts, who is at the Christian Medical College in Vellore, India, it is learned that he and his family had to spend the hot and rainy season in the mountains outside the city. Other than this, their home in Vellore is very comfortable and they are fortunate enough to have several native servants working for the family. Christmas was about the same as in this country except that the children missed the snow and the

fact that there was no chimney for Santa Claus. Dr. Bett's work at the hospital has increased in that the doctors are becoming adapted to his advanced methods, such as the use of blood which those people are not accustomed to donating. New drugs and supplies are quite rare, but now that the doctors are learning their uses, these supplies are coming in a little more often. Dr. Betts and his family miss Boston, of course, and he would like to hear from some of his old friends around the hospital.

The hospital expresses its sympathy to Dr. Leland S. McKittrick and Dr. John B. McKittrick in the recent loss of their mother, and to Dr. Leo V. Hand in the loss of his sister, Mrs. Jacobs.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editors

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Administration ..... CATHERINE GALVIN
Admitting ..... JOSEPHINE MAGLIOCCA
Blood Bank ..... RUTH NEWTON
Chemistry ..... CONSTANCE SELLMAN
Dietary ..... MARJORY LEBEAU
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